

SOUTH BEND



APRIL 2007

Building a 21st Century City
MAYOR STEPHEN J. LUECKE

Letter from the Mayor

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Last month I began to recount some of the important information from this year's State of the City speech. The City of South Bend is benefiting from the foundation we laid a decade ago in our mission to become a model city. Though we are facing new fiscal demands, increased public safety challenges and a scourge of abandoned/vacant housing, the City is enjoying renewed vigor and is poised for new growth and investment. We are entering the Age of Cities.

A decade ago I identified the need for a **model city to be financially sound and fiscally responsible**. Through good budgeting practices and strong financial management, we have been able to maintain a full range of critical services, even as we have trimmed the workforce. We have established a 20% reserve in the General Fund, maintained an A2 bond rating and last year earned \$3.7 million in interest. Our self-insured liability program saved \$885,000 and an analysis of our phone system led to changes that save us \$66,500 a year. By paying attention to small items as well as the big picture, we have been able to keep South bend financially strong.

Model cities cannot function effectively and efficiently without the dedication and hard work of City employees. In 2001, we had 1,341 employees. Today that number is 1,261. Our workforce has accepted the challenge to do things faster, better and with fewer funds. We are using technology to improve services, while saving the taxpayer money.

Seventy-five percent of our general fund expenditures are for police and fire operations. **Model cities put emphasis on public safety**...and with good reason. Our police and firefighters put their lives on the line every day as they work to keep South Bend safe.

Across the country, reported crime is up. Despite that increase, however, there are still 24% fewer reported crimes in South Bend than when I took office. We continue to develop proactive strategies to reduce all crimes. The Project Disarm Task Force, focusing resources to take firearms off the streets and prosecute those who violate the law, has made 141 arrests, won 115 convictions and confiscated 1025 fire-arms. The Regional Crime Intelligence Unit provides up-to-date information to officers on hot spots and trends. We are using technology such as digital cameras to track evidence and the Integrated Ballistic Identification System to read the "fingerprints" of bullets and casings. We are reaching out to children in the community with Gang Resistance Education & Training and PSA videos such as "Enough is Enough".

The South Bend Fire Department has been putting together a plan for an ambitious Level 3 regional training center that would serve firefighters, law enforcement, hospitals, emergency management personnel and others requiring emergency training. Our police and fire departments have top notch equipment. They are trained and ready. With a concerted effort by the entire community we will reach our goals.

When I became mayor, ten years ago, the City had been under-investing in our facilities for years. I believed, however, that **model cities reinvest in facilities and infrastructure**. The adoption of a local income tax allowed us to begin to catch up on deferred projects. We can now look with pride on state-of-the-art headquarters for the police and fire departments. We built a Public Works Service Center and

(cont'd on next page)

THIS MONTH...

Mayor's Letter
South Bend City Celebration:
- Fun by the Fountain
Potawatomi Zoo Open!
Senior Safety Tips
Spring Yard Waste Pickup

CITY Celebration
2007 • IN SOUTH BEND

FUN BY THE FOUNTAIN

Tuesday, May 29

Tasty treats and a carnival atmosphere will draw families downtown to Jon Hunt Plaza, from 6 - 8 p.m. (in front of the Morris Performing Arts Center), to usher in summertime fun!

Fun by the Fountain is part of South Bend City Celebration 2007. For more information, please visit SBCityCelebration.com, or call 235-9798 or 235-9951.



Now Open for the Season!

Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for kids 3-14, and over 62! Zoo receipts are also good for same-day **FREE** admission to the Potawatomi Conservatories & Greenhouses! For more information, call 235-9800 or visit potawatomizoo.org.

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improved Equipment Services to maintain our fleet of vehicles. We provided a quality home for the Studebaker Museum and are now renovating a building to hold its archives. We refurbished the parking structure at Main and Colfax, removed dinosaur buildings from the industrial core and restored the twin downtown jewels: the Morris Performing Arts Center and the Palais Ballroom. Behind the scenes we invested \$87 million in the Waste Water Treatment Plant and have embarked on a \$200 million plan to reduce sewer system overflows.

It is critical for a community to invest in its facilities and in its people. It not only shows pride, it also strengthens community and encourages other investment. I am grateful that we have developed the resources and the support to make this city strong again.

Sincerely,



Mayor Steve



HOME SAFETY TIPS

The South Bend Police Dept. advises all residents, especially senior citizens, that the onset of spring and warm weather may also bring home repair contractors to your doors, offering to do odd

jobs around your house. If you are approached by such an individual, please be aware of the following safety measures, to protect yourself and your home:

- **Don't let unknown people into your home.** Ask to see photo identification, and if you still aren't sure, call the company (Nipsco, Water Works, etc.) to verify they are who they claim to be - especially if you didn't ask them to come out! If you call a business out to your home to do work, make sure you see their Contractor's License before allowing them into your home.
- **Ask for references that you can contact.**
- **Set an appointment for a later time,** and ask a trusted relative or friend to also be present at that time.
- **Don't be pressured by sales tactics** like, "you must take this offer now, the sale ends today, don't tell anyone this is the best deal of the day".
- Rather than employing a stranger at your door, **call someone you know**, such as a trusted neighbor or relative, or a business, to do the work. Often the contractor will ask for money first, promising to return to do the job. Or they may do half of the job, then ask for money, promising to return later.
- Some people may come to your door asking for money. **Don't open the door!** Talk through the door, and tell them that you don't keep any money in the house. Don't give them money, or they will keep coming back to your house. If they refuse to leave, call the Police.
- **Call the police** if you notice any suspicious strangers looking into homes or cars in your neighborhood.
- If you are working in the front yard, **make sure the back door is locked.**
- **Close your garage door** whether you are home or away. An empty garage usually indicates an empty home.
- **Don't hide a key to your house outside** - if you hide it, a burglar can find it. Instead, leave an extra key with a trusted neighbor.
- **Report broken street lights** by calling the City's Division of Engineering at 235-5938. Well lit areas discourage burglars by taking away their hiding places.
- **If you have been burglarized, don't touch anything!** Go to a neighbor's and call the police - leave your home as you found it!

If you would like additional advice on securing your home, or would like an officer to conduct a security survey of your home, please contact the South Bend Police Crime Prevention Unit at 235-9037.



SPRING YARD WASTE PICKUP BEGINS

The City encourages all residents to help make South Bend a "Clean City," by taking advantage of its Yard Waste Pickup Program:

- ♦ **Until April 5** - the Bureau of Solid Waste will collect bagged or bundled yard waste on a call-in basis only - please call 277-8823 for curbside pickup.
- ♦ **Beginning April 9** - Solid Waste will officially begin its standard Yard Waste Pickup Program. Yard Waste Pickup will take place weekly on a resident's regular trash collection day. Pickup is automatic, call-in is not necessary. Please place yard waste at curbside, in bags or containers, by 6:00 a.m.

Please follow these guidelines for the Yard Waste Program:

1. Yard waste and brush must be bagged or bundled (no more than 4 feet in length or 1 foot above edge of container).
2. Please use suitable containers (30 gallon trash container or smaller) - *do not place yard waste in City automated trash containers.*
3. As always, please place yard waste at the curb and separate from trash and debris.
4. Do not place yard waste in the alleys.

Residents are reminded that in order to protect our air quality, burning of leaves is completely prohibited in the City of South Bend and is a violation of City ordinance.

South Bend's yard waste is recycled at the City's Organic Resources Facility, thereby diverting this material from our community's landfill and providing quality mulch for reuse. Residents can reap the rewards of their efforts by going to Organic Resources to pick up high quality mulch and compost for free if you self-load, or at a minimal sliding scale fee if you request assistance with loading. Organic Resources is located at 4340 Trade Drive, off of Nimtz Parkway just ¼ mile west of Bendix Drive. Organic Resources is open 8:00 AM to 3:45 PM, Monday through Friday. Please call 287-6841 for more information.

For more information on the Yard Waste Program, call Environmental Services at 277-8823.

HOMETOWN SPOTLIGHT

\$40 Million Kroc Center 'a beacon of hope' for West Side

Mayor Stephen J. Luecke, Salvation Army officials, and other community leaders announced the receipt of a \$40 million grant to the Salvation Army, to create the Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center at Alonzo Watson Park, on the southeast corner of Chapin St. and Western Ave.

The facility is expected to include a 10,000-square-foot aquatics center/water park, a gym and climbing wall, greenhouse, playfield and other outdoor recreational areas, a community garden, teen center, fitness center, fine arts and digital arts studios, and full service conference center. In accordance with Mrs. Kroc's wishes and the Salvation Army's holistic mission, a worship center will also be an important part of the proposed facility.

Educational programs offered at the Kroc Center will include computer training, project-based learning for suspended and/or expelled kids, a math and science academy, parenting and literacy classes, tutoring, nutritional education, leadership development and character education. The Center will also have the capacity to stage concerts, symphonies, plays and dance recitals, as well as offer vocal and instrumental training, drama, dance, performing arts, and multi-cultural activities.

"We cherish the life and promise of each child. This facility will be a great blessing for our community and provide the opportunity for all our children to reach their full potential," said Mayor Steve. "This will be a place where families are strengthened, where creativity flourishes, and where dreams are nurtured."

South Bend was one of only 10 Midwestern cities and the only city in Indiana to pre-qualify for the grant in December 2004. The City of South Bend has been a key partner in the initiative, contributing the 8.5-acre Alonzo Watson Park and adjacent property, together worth an estimated \$237,500.

One last step remains before the dream becomes a reality. The community must raise \$10 million – its matching share of the endowment — to support the center's ongoing operation. The result is that for each \$1 contributed by a South Bend area resident, \$5 is invested in our community. The fund-raising effort is being guided by Father Theodore Hesburgh, honorary chair, with former Indiana Gov. Joe Kernan and former Mayor Bob Beutter of Mishawaka serving as co-chairs. To date, approximately \$1.7 million in pledges have been secured. Fundraising is expected to take 18 months. Construction will begin in early spring 2008. The facility will open in late fall 2009.

For details, please visit usc.salvationarmy.org/sjc.



BIKE TO WORK WEEK

MAY 13-19, 2007

The "Paint the Town with Bicycle Lanes" Committee has chosen **Thursday, May 17** as Bike to Work Day for St. Joseph County.

We encourage everyone to bike to work on this day (and everyday)!

7 AM - 7 PM - *Gathering on the Gridiron, Hall of Fame*

- Bicycle mechanic to inspect bicycles and give advice on the right bicycle for your lifestyle
- Raffle of items from local bicycle shops and other local businesses
- Pamphlets and brochures on bicycle safety and local bicycling groups
- Free discount coupons for local restaurants and businesses
- Free coffee, snacks, and live music!

5:30 PM - *Bicycle Ride on newly striped bike lanes in South Bend!*

- Mayor Luecke has committed to striping 10 miles of bicycle lanes each year for the next five years!
- Striping of new lanes will begin in April 2007

Media Events

- Public Safety Messages for motorists and bicyclists on Billboards, Radio and TV
- Display in County-City Bldg. on bicycling and public safety.
- Newspaper articles on bicycle lanes and their use.
- Coordination of kids-bike-safety program with South Bend Police.

For more information, visit southbendbikes.wordpress.com, or please contact:

- Bike to Work Week Chair, Jeff Nixa 574-246-1682
- Paint the Town Committee, Judith Robert 574-287-0260

BICYCLE SAFETY

With the cost of gasoline and the desire for a healthier life style, bicycling is booming! More people are commuting to work, to school and to shopping centers, or just out for a pleasant ride.



Please help make South Bend safer for bicyclists by driving safely and courteously when bicycles are present - a cyclist doesn't stand a chance against a car or truck.

- Bicycles have the same right to the road as automobiles.
- Bicyclists may ride two abreast.
- Give bicyclists plenty of room. They may have to swerve unexpectedly to avoid a pothole or broken glass in the road.
- Don't blow your horn. It could startle the bicyclist and cause an accident.

Bicyclists should always wear a helmet and learn the rules of the road. Bicyclists must:

- Ride in the street or on designated bike trails.
- Obey the same traffic laws as automobiles.
- Ride in the same direction as traffic.
- Signal turns with proper hand signals.

Please do your part to make bicycling in South Bend safe and enjoyable for everyone!